

## Review from Sunday's Message for Personal Meditation:

- i. Message points for meditation and application:
  - a. Church government isn't attractive – it isn't what initially draws people to a particular church, but it makes a big difference in the spiritual life and health of a local church.
  - b. There are generally three forms of church government exercised in the world today:
    - i. Hierarchical (example: Catholic, Anglican, Orthodox)
    - ii. Representative (example: Presbyterian, Lutherans, Methodist)
    - iii. Self-governing (example: Baptist, Bible, Non-denominational)
  - c. Blessings associated with being an independent, self-governing, non-denominational church:
    - i. When there's no outside human authority above the church, Jesus and the Scripture becomes the practical authority.
    - ii. Independent, self-governing churches are less vulnerable to wide-scale corruption.
    - iii. Independent, self-governing churches have a built-in checks and balances with no centralized power.
    - iv. Independent, self-governing churches are more conducive to member involvement – and member involvement fosters healthy perseverance.
- ii. Key Scripture used in Sunday's Message: **Acts 14:21-28**.

## Questions for Reflection, Application and Fellowship:

- i. Do you think that the current governing structure of your church works quite well? Could it be improved without changing the basic philosophy of church government to which it is committed? How so?
- ii. Are there ways you could be either more involved in the governing life of the church, or supportive of those who are currently leaders in the church?
- iii. What is the value of "member meetings" in a self-governing church? What is the outcome of member involvement, or member apathy, in a self-governing church?